

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

GENERAL NOTES.

NOTES ON THE GENERA ISOTHRIX WAGNER AND PHYLLOMYS
LUND.

Various species of Loncherinæ with soft or bristly (not spiny) pelage are currently referred to the genus *Isothrix* Wagner, but little attention has been devoted to cranial or dental modifications and such assignment seems, in several instances, open to question.

The genus *Isothrix*, as originally proposed by Wagner,* included three species: *I. bistrinata*, *I. pachyura*, and *I. pagurus*, but no type was mentioned and I am unaware that one has been fixed upon by subsequent authors. The skull of *I. pachyura* was unknown to Wagner and the other species, while apparently congeneric, differ appreciably in dentition as figured by him.† In order, therefore, to abolish the resulting uncertainty, the first species listed, *Isothrix bistrinata* (Natterer MS.) Wagner, from the Rio Guaporé and the Rio Negro is selected as the type of the genus *Isothrix* Wagner.

Comparison of the dentition of species ranging in Panama with this type (l. c.) reveals apparently important differential characters, especially the complete transverse divisions of the molar crowns which persist until advanced age, instead of the irregular reëntrant angles and enamel folds characterizing the genera *Isothrix* and *Loncheres* at similar stages of wear. While these species differ from *Isothrix*, and from *Loncheres* as typified by *L. cristatus* (Desmarest),‡ close agreement in dentition with *Phyllomys* Lund is evidenced by comparison with figures accompanying his second account.§ This generic name based on material from bone caves in southern Brazil, and treated by authors as synonymous with *Loncheres* Illiger, seems available for a group transcontinental in distribution. The Brazilian species of this group figured by Wingell as *Loncheres armatus* and said to have broad spines mixed with the fur, strikingly resembles *Loncheres labilis* Bangs and *Isothrix darlingi* Goldman in cranial details. The latter species differs in color and the dorsal armature is composed of narrow, finely grooved bristles instead of broad spines, characters appar-

* Wiegmann's Archiv. Naturgesch., 1845, Bd., I, pp. 145-146.

† Schreber's Säugthiere, Suppl. III, p. 335, Taf. 239 D, fig. 5.

‡ Type fixed by Allen, Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist., N. Y., XII, p. 258, 1899.

§ K. Danske Vidensk. Selskab., Kjöbenhavn, VIII, 243-244, pl. 21, figs. 12-13, 1841.

|| E Museo Lundii, III, 1888, pp. 71, 80, pl. VI, figs. 3-4 and pl. VII, figs. 14-15.

ently specific in value, since they are not correlated with trenchant cranial or dental features. As nearly as can be determined by reference to published figures *Phyllomys brasiliensis* Lund (l. c.) is identical with the earlier described species currently recognized as *Loncheres armatus* (I. Geoffroy).

Species of the genus *Phyllomys* will therefore stand as follows:

PHYLLOMYS ARMATUS (I. Geoffroy).

Mus hispidus Lichtenstein, Darstellung neu. o. wenig. bekannt. Säugeth. (p. unnumbered) Taf. XXXV, fig. 2, 1827-1834. (Said to be from Cayenne.)

Nelomys armatus I. Geoffroy, Ann. Sci. Nat., Paris, ser. 2, X, p. 125, Aug. 1838 (new name for *Mus hispidus* Lichtenstein).

Phyllomys brasiliensis Lund (l. c.). (East slope Serra do Espinhaço, Minas Geraes, Brazil.)

Loncheres armatus Winge (l. c.). (Brazil.)

PHYLLOMYS CANICEPS (Günther).

Loncheres caniceps Günther, Proc. Zool. Soc. London, 1876, p. 745, pl. 73. (Medellin, Antioquia, Colombia).

[*Isotrix*] *caniceps* Trouessart, Cat. Mamm., 1897, p. 606.

PHYLLOMYS LABILIS (Bangs).

Loncheres labilis Bangs, Am. Nat., XXXV, p. 638, August, 1901 (San Miguel Island, Panama).

[*Isotrix*] *labilis* Trouessart, Cat. Mamm., Suppl., 1904, p. 504.

PHYLLOMYS DARLINGI (Goldman).

Isotrix darlingi Goldman, Smiths. Misc. Coll., Vol. 60, p. 12, September 20, 1912. (Marraganti, Rio Tuyra, eastern Panama).

—E. A. Goldman.

THE GENERIC NAMES EPIMYS AND RATTUS.

The generic name *Epimys* Trouessart, 1881, for the Norway and black rats and their allies, is antedated in the same sense by *Rattus* Fitzinger, Sitz-ber. Akad. Wien, Vol. 56, pt. 2, p. 63, 1867; *Rattus* "S. D. W.," Analyst, Vol. 4, p. 72, 1836; *Rattus* Donovan, Nat. Repos., Vol. 3, pl. 73, text p. 1, 1834 [1827]; and by *Rattus* (misprinted *Ruttus*) G. Fischer, Das Nationalmuseum der Naturgeschichte zu Paris, Vol. 2, p. 128, 1803. The name *Epimys* must therefore give way to *Rattus* Fischer, 1803, type species *Mus decumanus* = *Rattus norvegicus* (Erxleben). While not vital in this connection, it is interesting to note that the type species of *Rattus* Donovan, 1827, is *Rattus rattus* (Linnæus) by tautonymy, and not *Rattus donovani*, a species of *Arvicanthis* (*Lemniscomys*). Donovan really creates for the "rat tribe" a new genus *Rattus*, in which he includes, besides the new species *R. donovani*, the old species *Mus arvalis*, *M. decumanus*, and *M. rattus*.

—N. Hollister.